

Case 3547***Cryptotermes dudleyi* Banks, 1918 (Insecta, Isoptera): proposed precedence over *Calotermes havilandi parasita* Wasmann, 1910 (currently *Cryptotermes parasita*)**

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Abstract. The purpose of this application, under Articles 23.9.3 and 81 of the Code, is to conserve the usage of the specific name *Cryptotermes dudleyi* Banks, 1918 for an important economic termite pest species introduced throughout much of the world by man. The senior name, *Calotermes havilandi parasita* Wasmann, 1910 (currently *Cryptotermes parasita*), is poorly known, not widely used, and applied only to a population of restricted distribution, while the junior name has been universally used in an extensive systematic, biological, and pest management literature since 1918 when it was first proposed. It is accordingly proposed that the specific name *dudleyi* be given precedence over *parasita* whenever the two are considered to be synonyms.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Isoptera; KALOTERMITIDAE; *Cryptotermes*; *Cryptotermes dudleyi*; *Cryptotermes parasita*; termites; worldwide.

1. Wasmann (1910, p. 120) described *Calotermes havilandi parasita* from Mauritius and Europa Island, without selecting a holotype. Subsequently, Holmgren (1911a, p. 55) transferred *Calotermes havilandi parasita* to the subgenus *Cryptotermes* (today treated as a separate genus) and elevated the subspecies to specific rank, as *Calotermes (Cryptotermes) parasita*.

2. Banks (1918, p. 660) described and illustrated the drywood termite *Cryptotermes dudleyi* from Panama in his faunal account of the Isoptera of British Guiana and Panama.

3. Bacchus (1987, p. 53) selected a lectotype for *parasita* from Wasmann's syntypes from Mauritius and declared *parasita* a synonym of *Cryptotermes dudleyi*. He, however, retained *dudleyi* as the valid name despite *parasita* having priority. The type series of *C. havilandi parasita* Wasmann included syntypes from Mauritius and

Europa. It was found to be mixed. The syntypes from Europa Island, which are now paralectotypes with no name-bearing status, belong to *Cryptotermes havilandi* Sjöstedt, 1900 (Chhotani, 1970, p. 43; Bacchus, 1987, p. 1). A syntype from Mauritius was selected by Bacchus (1987, p. 53) as the lectotype of *parasita*, which that author then declared to be a junior synonym of *Cryptotermes dudleyi* Banks, 1918, without realising that *parasita* Wasmann 1910 has priority over *dudleyi* Banks, 1918.

4. Engel & Krishna (2002, p. 90) petitioned to conserve *dudleyi* relative to another senior synonym, *Calotermes* (*Cryptotermes*) *jacobsoni* Holmgren, 1913. The conservation of *dudleyi* relative to *jacobsoni* was upheld by the Commission and both names placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology (Opinion 2064, BZN 61(1): 57–58, March 2004). These authors overlooked at that time the similar priority of *parasita* over *dudleyi*.

5. *Cryptotermes dudleyi* Banks has a wide distribution and is a significant pest species, introduced into all the geographical regions of the world (Oriental, Ethiopian, Palaearctic, Nearctic, Neotropical, Australian and Pacific Oceanic Islands). The name *dudleyi* has been widely used in biological, systematic, and pest control literature. Since 1918 it has appeared in more than 100 biological and systematic papers and in a voluminous literature on pest control (e.g. Harris, 1961; Gay, 1967; Araujo, 1970; Roonwal, 1970; Sen Sarma 1974; Sen Sarma et al., 1975; Gay & Watson, 1982; Steward, 1983a, 1983b; Thakur, 1984; Roonwal & Chhotani, 1989; Huang et al., 1989, 2000; Watson et al., 1998; Scheffrahn & Křeček, 1999; Bordereau et al., 1999; Constantino, 2002; Fontes & Milano, 2002; Milano & Fontes, 2002). Conversely, the name *parasita* has been associated with only a restricted distribution (Comoros, Mauritius and Madagascar) and has been used only nine times in the same period, generally in checklists and catalogues (Holmgren, 1911a, 1911b; Hegh, 1922; Sjöstedt, 1926; Snyder, 1949; Van Boven, 1969; Chhotani, 1970; Bacchus, 1987; Eggleton & Davies, 2003), not in any revisionary or biological studies.

6. To replace the name *dudleyi*, which has been and is now universally used in the literature and widely recognised, with the obscure name *parasita* would, to say the least, create confusion and nomenclatural instability, particularly for the vast biological control and pest management community. We therefore propose that the name *C. dudleyi* be given precedence over *C. parasita*, with *parasita* remaining available for any future investigators who may wish to resurrect the epithet. In accordance with Article 23.9.3 of the Code this case is referred to the Commission for a ruling under Article 81.

7. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary power to give the name *dudleyi* Banks, 1918, as published in the binomen *Cryptotermes dudleyi*, precedence over the name *parasita* Wasmann, 1910, as published in the trinomen *Calotermes havilandi parasita*, whenever the two are considered to be synonyms;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *parasita* Wasmann, 1910, as published in the trinomen *Calotermes havilandi parasita*, with the endorsement that it is not to be given priority over the name *dudleyi* Banks, 1918, as published in the binomen *Cryptotermes dudleyi*, whenever the two are considered to be synonyms;

- (3) to amend the entry on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology for the name *dudleyi* Banks, 1918, as published in the binomen *Cryptotermes dudleyi*, to record that it is to be given precedence over the name *parasita* Wasmann, 1910, as published in the trinomen *Calotermes havilandi parasita*, whenever the two are considered to be synonyms.

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